THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that a study on the reach and impact of DD-India Channel in Middle-East countries is on the anvil.

(c) Prasar Bharati have informed that DD-India carries news bulletins, features on topical events, entertainment programmes, features films, music and dance including children programmes in some regional languages. The contents medley of DD-India Channel is expected to serve the interests and needs of the Indian diaspors.

Channel on Science and Technology/Environment and Forests

1703. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a 24-hour channel on Science and Technology/Environment and Forests on the lines of National Geographic and Discovery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the new channel would be set up; and

(d) the details of the programme that it would telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati have informed that they have to such plan to set up a 24-hour channel on Science and Technology/Environment and Forests, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Environment and Forests also have not proposal at present to set up such a channel.

Opinion and perspective of children

1704. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that television media ignores the opinions and perspectives of children and children's programming is never a priority for the TV media;

(b) whether there is also a complaint and information relevant to children is not presented in ways that they can understand;

(c) whether Government have any serious consultation in the matter to advise the TV media; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that as far as Doordarshan is concerned, children's programmes ranging from educational to entertainment from part of the regular programme schedule of its national and regional channels. Some such programmes are Meri Baat, Terra Quiz, Kar Bhala Soch Bhala, Bachon Ki Adalat, Aisa Hi Hoat Hai and Muthi Mein Science etc.

As regards programmes on private TV channels, their treatment of issues varies and is not subject to any control by the Government as long as they adhere to the Programme Code prescribed in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. No specific complaints have been received .

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

New Doordarshan Kendras Bihar

†1705. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of AIR and Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar is less compared to the other States;

(b) whether it is a fact that a proposal is under consideration of Government for setting up new Kendras of Doordarshan is Bihar and enhancing the capacity of Doordarshan Kendras at Patna and Muzzafarpur;

(c) whether it is a fact that only two studios of Doordarshan, 41 transmitters and just 05 stations are operational in Bihar at present which is relatively much less in term of its population and its being a State on Indo-Nepal border; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. Bihar has 5 Radio transmitters at Patna, Sasaram, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Darbhanga which covers

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.